

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2445

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5663

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCES: A
CHANCE FOR IMPROVEMENTS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 5176, (B) MOSCOW 5503, (C) MOSCOW 5324,
(D) STATE 77415, (E) MOSCOW 4141.

1. FOLLOWING SCICOUNS'S DELIVERY OF FLETCHER LETTER (REPORTED
REF A), ACADEMY PRESIDENT ALEKSANDROV ASKED WHETHER THERE ARE
ANY PROBLEMS INVOLVING THE ACADEMY IN CURRENT US-USSR COOPERATION.
SCICOUNS RESPONDED THAT THERE ARE TWO AREAS IN WHICH ACADEMY IS
SOMETIMES INADEQUATE IN ITS HOST RESPONSIBILITIES : (A) LATE
OR INSUFFICIENT PREPARATION OF PROGRAM UNDER THE EXCHANGES AND
(B) OCCASIONALLY POOR ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING LEAVING INCOMING
VISITORS UNMET AND STRANDED AT AIRPORTS. ASKED BY ALEKSANDROV
WHETHER ANY SUCH INCIDENTS HAD OCCURRED RECENTLY, SCICOUNS RELATED
PROBLEMS ARISING WITH ACKERMAN (REF B) AND LUCAS (REF C) WITHIN
PAST WEEK. AT DEPARTURE OF SCICOUNS, ALEKSANDROV ASKED FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION ON LAPSES BY THE ACADEMY.

2. IN PARALLEL DEVELOPMENT, EMBASSY HAS SINCE LEARNED THAT
FRG AMBASSADOR, IN RECENT CALL ON ALEKSANDROV, EXPRESSED DIS-
SATISFACTION WITH ARRANGEMENTS SOVIET ACADEMY HAS BEEN MAKING
FOR GERMAN EXCHANGE SCIENTISTS AND WARNED THAT FRG SCIENCE
COMMUNITY IS CURRENTLY RAPIDLY LOSING INTEREST IN CONTINUED
COOPERATION UNDER THOSE UNSATISFACTORY CONDITIONS. FURTHER,
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BRITISH SCICOUNS HAS ADVISED THAT HM AMBASSADOR IN 8 APRIL

INITIAL CALL ON ALEKSANDROV, SOUNDED SAME STRONG ALARM FROM BRITISH VIEWPOINT.

3. IN EMBASSY VIEW, OPPORTUNITY CURRENTLY EXISTS TO REDIRECT COOPERATION WITH ACADEMY TOWARD PROGRAMS MORE NEARLY BALANCED AND PRODUCTIVE FOR THE US. AREAS IN WHICH IMPROVEMENT COULD BE EXPECTED INCLUDE.

(A) OVERALL BETTER AND EARLIER PREPARATIONS OF PROGRAMS, INCLUDING PROMPT DELINEATION OF INSTITUTES TO BE VISITED AND FULLER DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES TO BE AVAILABLE (EQUIPMENT TECHNICAL SERVICES, ETC.).

(B) MORE-OPEN ACCESS, INCLUDING LESS-FREQUENT AUTOMATIC REFUSALS FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDIES IN WHAT SHOULD BE OPEN INSTITUTES IN CLOSED AREAS.

(C) BETTER SUPPORT, IN LINE WITH RUSSIAN HOSTING TRADITION, OF THE EXCHANGEES (E.G., ACCESS TO "D" COUPONS, BETTER HOUSING, RIGHT TO AUTOMOBILE PURCHASE, AND DUTY-FREE IMPORT OF ITEMS FOR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION).

(D) PROVISION TO EXCHANGEES OF EXIT VISAS ON ARRIVAL AT LATEST (FYI, EXIT VISAS ARE GENERALLY PROVIDED TO EXCHANGEES ONLY JUST PRIOR TO SCHEDULED DEPARTURE. IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, THAT SYSTEM CAN BE A DISASTER, AND IT HAS OFTEN BROKEN DOWN EVEN ON ROUTINE DEPARTURES, CAUSING A DISCOMFITTING AND INCONVENIENT DELAY AS AN EXCHANGEE'S LAST MEMORY OF HIS SOVIET EXPERIENCE. MOST RECENTLY, EXCHANGEE BILANIUK'S WIFE WAS DELAYED 24 HOURS IN MOSCOW AFTER ACADEMY OFFICIALS IN KIEV FORGOT TO GIVE HER AN EXIT VISA).

4. CALLS BY FRG AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S PLUS RECENT INTERNAL HIGH-LEVEL CRITICISM OF THE ACADEMY, COULD CREATE A MORE MALLEABLE SITUATION WITHIN THE NORMALLY UNRESPONSIVE FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE ACADEMY. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, AMBASSADOR WOULD THUS PLAN TO CALL ON ALEKSANDROV TO MAKE POINTS A-D ABOVE WHEN HE RETURNS FROM WESTERN EUROPE NEXT WEEK. PLEASE ADVISE.

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